

Natural Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
October 13, 2011
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
RI Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Conference Room A - Fourth Floor
Providence, RI

Members Present: Janet Coit, Chairman, Steven Hourahan, Governor's Office Appointee, Jared Rhodes, representing Statewide Planning

Staff Present: Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning and Lisa Primiano, Deputy Chief, DEM/Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by Chairman Janet Coit.

1. Introductions – Introductions were made by all.
2. Historical Overview of Natural Heritage Preservation Commission – L. Primiano gave the Commission an overview of the accomplishments of the Commission and the Local Grants Program to date.
3. Discussion of official roles of the Commission and the Governor's Advisory Committee on Natural Heritage Preservation – The official roles of the Commission and the Advisory Committee were discussed.
4. Review Criteria and Scoring Process – K. Nelson presented an overview of the scoring criteria and the group reviewed a handout which explained each criteria and the amount of points awarded for specific categories. The members discussed a need to revise and update the criteria and scoring process and they charged L. Primiano and K. Nelson with this task.
5. Presentation of List of Recommended Grants – A list was distributed for review and discussion. The list contained grants scored in numerical order according to the criteria. The commission reviewed and discussed the grants generally and had specific questions regarding some of the proposed projects.

6. Approval of Final List of Local Open Space Grants – After discussion, a final list was recommended for approval. The proposed funding list included all projects from Audubon Society to Coventry and including the Block Island Conservancy project. There would also be a list of four alternative projects in case some of the projects were not successful. These alternative projects are Dodge Farm in Glocester and Smithfield, Sakonnet Vineyard in Little Compton and Taveras Farm in Bristol. On a motion by J. Coit, second by J. Rhodes, the funded project list and project waiting list was unanimously approved.

7. Other Business – There will be an awards ceremony hosted by the Governor in the near future at the State House to announce the grants.

8. Adjournment – On a motion by S. Hourahan, second by J. Rhodes, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Primiano